W. M. Drake
Church Hill
Miss

MINUTES

OF THE

MISSISSIPPI

ANNUAL CONFERENCE,

HELD IN

NATCHEZ,

DECEMBER, 1839.

PRINTED AT THE "DAILY COURIER OFFICE,"
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1840.

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NATCHEZ, DECEMBER, 1839.

Wednesday, December 4th, 1839. 9 o'clock A. M.

The Mississippi Annual Conference met according to appointment in Natchez.

Bishop Andrew being present, opened the Conference by reading the Holy Scriptures, singing, and prayer. After which the Conference proceeded to the election of a Secretary, and Joseph Travis was nominated and elected.

Conference resolved to meet at 9 o'clock A. M. and to adjourn at 1 o'clock P. M. during its session.

On motion resolved, That all the Local Preachers, Preachers on Probation, and any lay-member, who may be invited by a member of the Conference, be permitted to have a seat in the Conference room.

On motion, resolved, That Wm. Winans, B. M. Drake, and J. M. Holland be appointed a committee to superintend divine service.

On motion, resolved, That S. W. Speer, A. T. M. Fly, and L. Campbell be appointed Conference Stewards.

On motion, resolved, that B. A. Hougton, E. Steele, and W. Watkins be a committee on periodicals.

On motion, resolved, That C. K. Marshall, J. D. Neale and R. Alexander be appointed a Book Committee.

On motion, resolved, That L. Fowler, Wm. Winans, and B. A. Houghton be appointed a committee on memoirs.

On motion, resolved, That T. Owen, J. J. E. Byrd and Hardy Mullens be appointed a committee on necessitous cases.

On motion, resolved, That Bradford Frazee, R. Alexander,

C. K. Marshall, L. Fowler, and J. Lane be appointed a committee on education.

The Bishop called upon the Presiding Elders of the different districts for the names of applicants for readmission into the Itineracy. Peter James, S. W. Hankins, W. L. McAlister, P. H. Dieffenwierth Jr., and Preston Cooper were readmitted.

The question, who are received on trial? was taken up. W. J. Harris, Daniel Dealy, Daniel Jones, John C. Johnson, Henry H. Shropshire, Solomon Simkins, Joshua T. Heard, A. W. Chapman, James Adams, Henry Avery, John W. Walkup, Daniel A. J. Parker, Wesley W. Taylor, Robert Crawford, and Daniel Carle were admitted Concluded with prayer.

THURSDAY, 5th.—Conference met according to order. Bishop Andrew in the Chair, and was opened as usual by reading a portion of the Holy Scriptures, singing and prayer.

Reports from the Book agents at New York and Cincinnati were read and all the documents were referred to the Book Committee, and Committee on periodicals.

A communication from the book agents at New York was read in the Christian Advocate and Journal relative to the prosperous condition of the Book Concern.

A communication from the New York conference on Temperance was read, and laid on the table.

The question, who are admitted on trial? was resumed. J. H. Davidson, Robert H. Hill, D. N. V. Sullivan, John Haynie, and Henderson D. Palmer were admitted. Concluded with prayer.

FRIDAY, 6th.—Conference met according to order. Bishop Andrew in the Chair; opened as usual.

On motion, resolved, That W. Winans, B. M. Drake, and B. A. Houghton be appointed a committee to confer with the Bishop upon the propriety of revising the course of study for the junior preachers.

The question, who remain on trial? was taken up, and L. D. Langford, and John D. Deskins were continued on trial.

The examination of the character of preachers of the 3d year was taken up; Joel Saunders, A. S. Parker, R. A. Stewart, and Isaac Taylor were passed.

James G. Carstapen asked for, and obtained a location.

Richard Angel passed, and was continued in a superannuated relation.

The question, who are admitted into full connection? was

called up; Edwin Phillips, Bennett R. Truly, R. W. Kennon, W. G. Gold, W. B. Walker, and James C. Finley, were admitted, and elected to Deacon's orders.

The question, who are elected to Elder's orders? was called for; Elijah Steele, A. T. M. Fly, W. H. Watkins, and Wm. H. B. Lane were elected.

A. J. S. Harris and Isaac C. Foster were located.

The Conference Stewards made their call upon the preachers for their claims and collections.

On motion Resolved, That a committee of three be chosen by ballot, to be entitled the Centenary Committee, whose duty it shall be to receive and examine all the manuscript essays delivered on the centenary, and make a selection of a sufficient number to make a reasonable sized duodecimo volume, to be sold for the benefit of the Preachers Fund Society. W. Winans, J. M. Holland and James C. Finley were elected that committee.

On motion Resolved, That the committee appointed to superintend divine service, be instructed to make arrangements for celebrating the Centenary of Methodism by the preachers of the Conference and the church of Natchez.

The Bishop reported that the Stewards of Conference were authorized to draw on the Book Concern at New York for five hundred dollars. Also on the Chartered fund for seventy-six dollars, and Conference accordingly ordered the draft.

On motion Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to receive the literary fund of the centenary collection, and pay over the same to the treasurer of the board of Trustees of the College, when such an officer shall have been appointed.

On motion Resolved, that a committee of two be appointed to take a copy of the subscriptions of the centenary fund, and that the original subscriptions be returned to their respective circuits and stations, by the preachers in charge, whose duty it shall be to see to the prompt collection of them when due. E. R. Porter and Samuel L. L. Scott were nominated and elected. Closed with prayer.

Saturday 7th.—Conference met according to order. Bishop Andrew in the Chair; opened as usual, with reading the Holy Scriptures, singing and prayer.

The Bishop called for recommendations of local preachers for Deacon's orders; J. Queen, A. W. Chapman, Henry Crook, Josiah Allen, Holden Dwight, Zachariah A. Mudge, David J. Tidwell, J. W. Purvis, Wm. M. D. Martin, and George M. Williams were elected.

The Bishop called for recommendations of Local Deacons for Elders' orders, and James R. West, and S. A. Williams were elected.

The parchments of Hill Jones as a Local Deacon and Elder were restored.

On motion Resolved, That extracts of the minutes of Conference, the course of study and the appointments of the Preachers be published in pamphlet form.

On motion Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to write a pastoral letter to our brethren within the bounds of this Conference.

The Committee appointed to confer with the Bishop on the subject of revising the course of study, reported and their report was adopted.

The question who remain on trial? was taken up. A. M. Whiting, Byron Benton, J. J. Robinson, Reuben B. Ricketts, Daniel Leggett, Absalom Petitt, and Gabriel Spence were continued.

Green M. Rogers, R. D. Smith and W. Langarle were announced by the Bishop as a committee to receive the literary fund of the centenary collection. Closed by prayer.

Monday 9th.—Conference met and was opened as usual; Bishop Andrew in the Chair.

Resumed the question, who remain on trial. Levi Pearce, Andrew Day, Thomas Myers, Horace M. Booth, Hanson Hawkins, Robert R. Gill, Josiah Box, Thomas O. Ellis, E. R. Strickland, E. Fontaine and J. J. Jones were continued.

A memorial from the Trustees of the Holly Springs University was read tendering said institution to this Conference for its patronage &c. The memorial was referred to the committee on Education.

The examination of Elders' characters was taken up. Barnabas Pipkin, E. N. Tally, D. M. Wiggins, William Winans, B. M. Drake. W. Langarle, L. Campbell, Thomas Clinton, and Green M. Rogers were passed.

The Chairman of the committee appointed to investigate the charges brought against Bradford Frazee last year, reported that he was acquitted of all the charges, and his character was passed. Closed with the Benediction.

Tuesday, 10th.—Conference met according to order. Bishop Andrew in the Chair, and was opened as usual.

The report of the committee to whom was referred the settlement with the Book Agent at New Orleans was accepted.

The Constitution, &c. of the Female Academy at Vicksburg was read by John Lane, and was referred to the committee on Education.

On motion resolved, that a board of Commissioners consisting of five be elected by ballot to make a location for the Centenary College within the present conference year, and to organize a Board of Trustees, to consist of eight travelling preachers, and five local preachers, or lay-members, and that said board of commissioners form part of the Board of thirteen Trustees.

The report of the committee on memoirs, relative to W. V. Douglas was adopted.

The communications from the Woodville Female Academy were read by William Winans, and the following resolution adopted.

Resolved, That the Woodville Female Academy, be, and is hereby admitted to the same relation to this Conference, which is sustained by the Elizabeth Female Academy, and further that we will employ our influence, and patronage in support of said Academy.

Resumed the examination of the character of Elders. John Lane, C. K. Marshall, S. W. Speer, B. A. Houghton, R. D. Smith, S. C. Cheney, and E. R. Porter, passed.

J. G. Jones passed and not being able to do effective service, Conference granted him a superannuated relation.

James C. Finley, W. Langarle, Charles K. Marshall, B. M. Drake, and Thomas Clinton, were appointed to write the pastoral Letter.

Wednesday 11th.—Conference met. Bishop Andrew in the Chair, and opened as usual.

On motion Resolved, That the Rev. Mr. Finley, Agent of the Colonization Society, be requested to address this Conference on the subject of African Colonization, which he cheerfully complied with.

John Lane, B. M. Drake, John G. Jones, Thomas Owens, and Green M. Rogers, were elected Commissioners to locate the Centenary College, and to organize a Board of Trustees.

On motion Resolved, That the Conference meet this afternoon at 3 o'clock to elect three delegates to the General Conference.

THE FOLLOWING REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE STEWARDS WAS ADOPTED.

	CLAIMS	Receipts.	Collections.	Appropriations.
B. Pipkin,	264 00	264 00	5 00	
E. N. Tally,	100 00	81 50	11 00	
D. M. Wiggins,	100 00	100 00	34 50	
B. Benton,	100 00	100 00		
J. Ginn,	200 00	200 00		
A. S. Parker,	100 00	100 00		
W. Winans,	248 00	248 00		
B. M. Drake,	264 00	264 00	175 00	
W. G. Gold,	100 00	100 00	27 12	
D. Leggett,	100 00	100 00		
E. Steele,	100 00	160 00	28	
W. Langarle,	100 00	100 00		
L. Campbell,	200 00	200 00	5 25	
W. H. Watkins,	100 00	100 00		
G. M. Rogers,	264 00	110 00		28 00
J. Taylor,	269 00	81 00	4	57 00
T. Myers,	200 00	52 00	1 50	52 00
W. H. Lane,	156 00	34 75	1 75	43 00
G. F. Spence,	100 00	87 50		
C. K. Marshall,	216 00	50 00	101 75	60 50
S. W. Speer,	200 00	15 00		89 00
B. A. Houghton,	216 00	107 69	43 56	4 81
R. D. Smith.	248 00	224 50	101 75	
H. M. Booth,	100 00	100 00		
A. T. M. Fly,	248 00	248 00		
J. Watson,	304 00	103 00		
H. Hawkins,	100 00	47 56		
J. G. Jones,	241 00	193 18		
E. R. Porter,	100 00	100 00		
P. B. Bailey,	312 00	101 00	22 31	71 00
A. M. Whiting,	100 00	55 00		
W. Ford,	232 00	232 00		
R. W. Kennon,	100 00	100 00		
B. R. Truly,	288 00	79 00	15 00	59 25
E. Phillips,	100 00	100 00	21 00	
E. R. Strickland,	232 00	232 00		
J. J. E. Byrd,	136 00	81 50	1 00	
R. R. Gill,	100 00	100 00		
R. B. Ricketts,	100 00	100 00	9 00	
L. D. Langford,	336 00	133 00		51 00

REPORT.

	CLAIMS.	Receipts.	Collections.	Appropria. tions.
J. M. Holland,	320 00	243 00		
S. L. L. Scott.	100 "	100 "		
J. W. Ellis,	232 "	232 "	8 00	
R. S. Collins,	100 "	100 "		
W. B. Walker,	100 "	100 "		
W. Craig,	200 "	79 "		25 00
E. Fontaine	100 "	100 "		
N. R. Jarrett,	320 "	83 37		89 00
R. Angel,	232 "			121 00
Jesse Lee,	200 "			104 00
Sister Hainey & children	148 "			77 50
" Douglas, "	140 "			73 25
" Talleys, "	40 "			21 25
Bishop Andrew,				12 75
Roberts,				11 60
Hedding,				11 60
Bishop Morris,				11 60
" Waugh,				15 31
Cash from book concern.			500 00	
" " Chartered fund.			76 00	
Total,	$9106,00	5962,55	1192,49	1095,42

From the above statement it will be seen that the nett deficiency is $1950 96. It will be seen that the claims set down in the first column is only that which the Discipline specifies. That is to say, $100 for a man, the same for his wife, and $16 for each child under seven years old, and $24 for each child over seven, and under fourteen. Married men have a further claim on their circuits for Table expenses, house-rent, fuel, &c. The amount of this claim is estimated by the Stewards of the circuit. But if it is not made upon the circuit the claim is not allowed at Conference. In some instances we learn these claims were partially met, but in others wholly neglected. Were the deficiencies in these just claims added, it would swell the amount enormously. Under the head of *collections*, in the third column, is meant specific collections to make up deficiencies at conference. Those preachers whose names do not appear either made no report, or had no claims on the Funds of conference, being employed as Missionaries, or otherwise so as to vacate their claims.

On motion Resolved, That the surplus which appears on the above report be placed in the hands of the Chairman on necessitous cases.

Moses Speer was admitted into full connection.

Resumed the examination of the character of Elders. Pleasant B. Bailey, Washington Ford, J. M. Holland, S. L. L. Scott, J. W. Ellis, Samuel R. Davidson, W. Craig, and J. Travis were passed.

J. J. E. Byrd, was passed and Conference granted him a superannuated relation.

David O. Shattuck, Robert S. Collins, N. B. Jarrett, and Jesse Ginn, passed, asked for and obtained locations.

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3 o'clock P. M. Conference met according to adjournment. Bishop Andrew in the Chair. Proceeded to ballot for three delegates to the ensuing general Conference. On counting the votes William Winans, B. M. Drake, and J. M. Holland were declared duly elected. And John Law, Littleton Fowler, and G. M. Rodgers were elected reserve delegates.

Resumed the examination of the character of Elders, and S. M. Kingston passed.

THURSDAY, 12th.—Conference met according to order. Bishop Andrew in the Chair.

On motion Resolved, That the Presiding Elders be the Missionary committee.

William Craig asked for, and obtained a location. L. Fowler, A Stephens, R. Alexander, J. Hord, and J. P. Sneen passed. Isaac L. G. Strickland, and William V. Douglass had died in peace and triumph during the year. Jesse Lee, and Thomas Owens were continued in a superannuated relation.

James Applewhite and J. D. Neale were located.

The committee on education reported in favor of the Conference receiving the Holly Springs University under its patronage, and recommended the appointment of an agent for its benefit, which report was adopted. The committee farther reported in favor of taking the Vicksburg Female Academy under the patronage of the Conference, which was also adopted. J. M. Holland, Joseph Travis, and W. McAlister were appointed a visiting committee to attend the examinations of the Holly Springs University.

On motion Resolved, That R. Alexander, and C. Richardson

be, and they are hereby appointed to obtain a deed from the proprietors of Rutersville for the lands which may be necessary for our institutions of learning there, said deed to be made to Trustees in trust, for the use of the Methodist E. Church.

On motion Resolved, That three hundred and fifty dollars of the centenary collection in the Texas District, be and is hereby appropriated to the male and female Institutions in Rutersville. Closed with the Benediction. ———

Friday 13th.—Conference met according to order. J. Lane in the Chair.

The committee on Periodicals reported, which report was adopted.

On motion Resolved, That the members of this conference do set apart the first day of January next, as a day of fasting and prayer, for the blessing of God on our ministerial labors the ensuing year.

The committee on receiving subscriptions for the centenary fund reported, and the book containing all the names of subscribers was filed with the papers of the Conference.

The committee on memoirs made a further report on the death of Brother Strickland, which was adopted.

R. A. Stewart, on account of ill health, was placed in a supernumerary relation.

Malcolm McPherson, was re-admitted into the travelling connection.

On motion Resolved, that the preachers in charge of circuits in connection with the junior preachers, be required to take into their regular pastoral care, all the colored societies within their bounds as far as practicable, and preach to them, and meet them in class apart from the white congregation, as often as possible.

The committee on the literary fund of the centenary, reported that there was $46,672,50 on subscription, and $731,00 on hand. The last named sum was ordered to be placed in the hands of Rev. John Law, until a treasurer of the board of Trustees of the centenary College, should be appointed.

The Board of visitors of Emory Academy reported, which was accepted.

On motion Resolved, That the preachers in charge of circuits and relations, be required to take a collection in every congregation, to defray the expenses of the delegates to the general conference, and to send the money to the most convenient delegate.

The Conference then proceeded to fill vacancies in the board of Trustees of Emory Acadamy, and Reuben Marshall, J. M.

Martin, Wm. W. Le Suer, Wm. H. Terrill, E. Cage, J. J. Harris, J. R. West, and J. J. Jones were appointed.

Vicksburg was fixed as the place of the sitting of the next Conference.

The committee to write the pastoral letter reported, which was adopted.

The Board of Trustees of the Elizabeth Female Academy in the town of Washington, made a report to the Conference, which was accepted.

The agent of the Mississippi Conference for holding its bank stock reported, which was accepted.

On motion Resolved, That B. M. Drake, be continued Agent for said bank stock.

On motion Resolved, That the General Conference be petitioned so to alter the Discipline, ii. chap. 8th section, as to make it prohibit the members of the Church from manufacturing, buying, or selling ardent spirits except for medical purposes.

The Book committee reported, which was accepted.

The committee for selecting essays for publication, requested to be discharged from further services, which was granted, and on motion Resolved, That James C. Finley be a committee to complete the election, and report to the next Conference.

Adjourned with the benediction to meet at 3 o'clock, P. M.

Conference met according to adjournment, W. Winans in the chair.

The committees of examination were then appointed. For the young men of the first year, William Langarl, E. Steele, and W. H. Watkins. For the second, B. M. Drake, C. K. Marshall, and B. A. Houghton. For the third, G. M. Rogers, S. W. Speer, and B. Frazee. For the fourth, J. M. Holland, L. Campbell, and E. N. Talley.

On motion Resolved unanimously, by a rising vote, that we tender our thanks to the citizens of Natchez, for the courteous, and kind manner in which we have been entertained during our session, and that B. M. Drake be requested to publish this resolution from the pulpit.*

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*In the hurry of the close of Conference we entirely forgot to express our cordial thanks to the Session and Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, for the very kind and christian manner in which their house of worship was tendered for the use of the Conference during its sitting. I can vouch that the sentiment was universally felt, though not expressed by resolution.

B. M. D.

Mississippi Auxiliary Missionary Society in Account Current with Benjamin M. Drake, Treasurer.

1838.	CREDITS.		
	By balance on hand last report, - -		3,208 54
Nov. 26,	by cash from J. W. Hopkins, public collection in Natchez, - - - -		112 81
" "	by cash from W. Van Campen, public collection, colored people in Natchez, -		23 00
" "	by cash from annual subscription W. Dimond,		3 00
" 27,	by cash from J. C. Finley, collection Port Gibson and Grand Gulf, - - -		110 00
" "	by cash from A. B. Ross, - - -	10 00	
" " " " "	J. W. Evans, - - -	25 00	
" " " " "	H. Booth, - - -	13 00	
Dec'r. 3, " " "	Mrs. Hughes, - - -	5 00	
			53 00
" 5, " " "	J. Lane, Vicksburg Branch, -		223 00
" " " " "	Rev. C. K. Marshall, - -		220 00
" " " " "	Treasurer Bayou Pierre Circuit, by A. Parker, - - -		623 88
" " " " "	Treasurer St. Helena Circuit, by B. Pipkin, - - -		34 50
" " " " "	S. W. Speer, for Mrs. Gaines, donatioh, - - -	20 00	
" " " " "	Warren Circuit, per S. W. Speer,	19 00	
" " " " "	Raymond Circuit, by A. H. Holcom. - - - -	8 50	
" " " " "	Yazoo do by A. H. Holcom,	11 00	
" " " " "	Treasurer Yazoo Branch, by D. O. Shattuck, - - -	120 00	
" " " " "	Treasurer Coles Creek Branch, by P. B. Bailey - - -	31 00	
" " " " "	Treasurer Madison Circuit Branch, J. G. Jones, - - -	375 00	
" " " " "	Lake Providence, B. A. Houghton,	32 00	
" " " " "	Madison Circuit Mission returned, by N. Ford, - - -	6 00	
			622 50
" 8, " " "	Wilkinson Circuit, collected by W. Langarl, - - - -	16 00	
" 10, " " "	Salem, do do do	170 75	
" " " " "	Do Circuit, collected by J. W. Ellis, - - - -	12 00	
" " " " "	Paulding do by G. M. Rodgers,	192 12	
" " " " "	Raleigh do " "	49 00	
" " " " "	Whitesand do " "	80 00	
" " " " "	Pearl River do " "	60 00	
" " " " "	Monticello District returned,	25 00	
" " " " "	Mr. Gorton, by E. R. Porter;	5 00	
" " " " "	Missionary Sermons, - -	25	

1838. CREDITS CONTINUED.

Dec. 10, by cash from Mrs. Banks, by W. B. Walker,		5 00	
" " " " " Treasurer Washington Circuit Branch, D. M. Wiggins,		97 69	
" 12, " " " W. G. Gold, collected on Chickasaw, - - - -		68 75	
			781 56
" " " " " Proceeds of Missionary Sermons,		1 00	
" " " " " Treasurer Madison County, W. Ford, - - - -		5 00	
" " " " " New Orleans, Collection by Hamilton, E. N. Talley, - -		30 00	
" " " " " Washington Mission, returned,		35 35	
" " " " " Kitty Neily, per R. D. Smith,		2 00	
" " " " " Walter Irvine, - - -		50 00	
" " " " " Mrs. Shaw, - - -		10 00	
" " " " " The Preachers annual subscription,		65 00	
			198 35
1839.			
Jan. 18, by cash from K. S. Robins, - - -		5 00	
March 27, by cash from Missionary Sermons, . -		25	
May 8, by cash from Mr. Malloy, by J. J. Robinson, -		50 00	
" 18, " " " J. C. Finley, by W. Watkins,		78 00	
Oct. 1, " " " W. Baird, by W. Winans,		5 00	
			138 25
" 26, " " " Judge Johnson, per E. MaGehee,		5 00	
" " " " " W. Collinsworth, - - -		1 50	
Decem. 5, by cash from Natchez District, - - -		50 00	
" " " " " T. Owens, Mrs. Wright's donation,		5 00	
" 6, " " " Mission in Madison County, per S. Pierce, - - - -		120 00	
" " " " " Madison Mission, Collection by S. Pierce, - - -		23 00	
" " " " " Treasurer Coles Creek Branch, by A. T. M. Fly, - - -		565 50	
" " " " " Coles Creek Circuit, proportion Cent. collection, - - -		18 00	
" " " " " A. S. Parker, S. Burk's donation,		10 00	
" " " " " S. Bridgers, by H. Booth,		25 00	
" " " " " Treasurer Port Gibson and Grand Gulf Branch, H. Booth,		184 50	
			1007 50
" " " " " Port Gibson & Grand Gulf proportion, cent. donation,		1 00	
" " " " " Pearl River Circuit donation, by B. Benton, - - -		1 50	
" 7, " " " Jackson proportion, Centenary donation, - - - -		8 00	
" " " " " Treasurer Feliciana Circuit, per D. Pipes, - - - -		95 50	
" " " " " W. Langarl, - - -		25 00	

1839. CREDITS CONTINUED.

Dec. 7, by cash from J. W. Burriss, by E. Steele,			20 00	
" " " " "	Attala Circuit proportion sent, Col. R. R. Truly, - - -		3 60	
" " " " "	Treasurer Miss. Society, Bayou Pierre Circuit, J. Watson,		82 00	
" " " " "	Yazoo Circuit, proportion cent, Col. S. W. Hawkins, - - -		3 00	
" " " " "	Whitesand Circuit by G. Spence,		1 00	
				240 60
" " " " "	Yazoo Circuit, circulation by W. Ford, - - - - -		31 25	
" 9, " " "	B. Rouge, by E. N. Tally, -		2 00	
" " " " "	E. N. Tally, Beasly's Donations for Rocky mountains, - - -		15 00	
" " " " "	Covington, collection by D. M. Wiggins, - - - -		11 13	
" " " " "	Thomas Tate, per B. Pipkin,		12 00	
" " " " "	Treasurer Amite Branch, per J. Ginn, - - - -		36 50	
" " " " "	M. Simpson, donation, -		5 00	
" " " " "	C. McNeal, - - - -		5 00	
" " " " "	G. M. Rogers collection in Paulding,		80 00	
" 10, " " "	Pontotock, by E. Fontaine, -		67	
" " " " "	Salem circuit collection, per J. H. Holland, - - - -		7 00	
" " " " "	Vicksburg collection, colored Miss. per C. K. Marshall, - -		50 00	
				255 55
				7856 04

1838. DEBITS.

Dec. 12, To Amt. — Draft, favor J. G. Jones for Mission Sharon District, -				125 00
" " " Cash —	" "	J. G. Jones for Mission Sharon District, -	125 00	
" " " " —	" "	J. G. Jones for Mission Sharon District, -	195 00	
" " " " —	" "	J. M. Holland, Holly Springs District, -	125 00	
" " " " —	" "	J. G. Jones, Sharon District. - -	250 00	
" " " " 2	" "	Rodgers, -	100 00	
" " " "	" "	W Winans, N. Orleans District, - -	150 00	
" " " "	" "	L. Campbell, Texas,	900 00	
" " " "	" "	J. Lane, Vicksburg District, -	250 00	

"	"	"	"		"	"	D. O. Shattuck, Grenada, District -	150 00	
"	"	"	"		"	"	J. M. Holland, Holly Springs District,	100 00	
									2275 00
March	12,	"	"		"	"	J. M. Holland, Holly Springs District,	100 00	
"	"	"	"	1	"	"	J. G. Jones, Sharon District, - -	250 00	
June		"	"	1	"	"	W. Winans, for Miss. on Natchez District,	250 00	
July	12	"	"	3	"	"	D O Shatuck, for Miss. on Grenada District,	375 00	
"	"	"	"	1	"	"	J. Lane; Miss. Vicksburg District, -	250 00	
									1125 00
"	"	"	"				Discount on Brandon money, L. Campbell, -	20 00	
"	"	"	"			"	on Brandon money, J. Lane, - -	12 50	
"	"	"	"			"	on uncurrent money, to J. G. Jones, -	150 00	
"	"	"	"			"	on three hundred dollars Brandon money to J. W. Hopkins, -	150 00	
"	"	"	"			"	on uncurrent money exchanged by R. B. Ricketts, -	19 50	
"	"	"	"			"	on uncurrent notes exchanged by E R Porter,	16 62	
"	"	"	"			"	on uncurrent notes exchanged by W. H. B. Lane, - -	1 75	
"	"	"	"	2	Draft favor		J. M. Holland, -	200 00	
"	"	"	"				Discount on uncurrent notes, J. Travis, - - -	3 50	
"	"	"	this amount for counterfeit Gold pieces,					2 50	
									576 37
"	"	"	balance on hand, - - - ;						3754 57
									7856 04

PASTORAL LETTER.

To the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, within the bounds of the Mississippi Conference.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN:

It affords us the greatest pleasure to be able to inform you that by the blessing of God, our deliberations have been conducted with the greatest harmony, and that we confidently trust, that our Preachers set out upon the labors of a new year with renewed confidence in each other, our societies, and the Great Head of the Church.

The united labors of our ministers and people, during the past year, have been graciously owned of God, by a very general increase of members, numerous conversions, and in several places, by very abundant outpourings of His Holy Spirit; and we think that our Centenary Celebration has been instrumental in giving an impulse to the faith and zeal, which we would fondly hope will continue to move, with accelerated motion, until the earth shall be filled with the Glory of God.

Permit us, as those, whose delightful task it is to minister unto you in holy things, to suggest for your consideration a few things, which are indispensably necessary to the prosperity of our Church—we may say to its life, and in which we fear we have fallen very much below the views of the venerable founders of Methodism, whose labors, we have so recently been celebrating. It is, you know, the peculiar doctrine of our Church, that we are not only justified, but sanctified by faith; and that by fervent and believing prayer, we may at all times, obtain an instant victory over inward and outward sin, and bring the whole man, soul, body and spirit into perfect subjection to the law of Christ. Now we very much fear, dear brethren, that it is too common with us, not only to put off the work of sanctification, as the children of the world delay the work of repentance, but that we deny the doctrine of the Church; and the power of the Gospel of Christ, by alleging the impossibility of conquering sin, as the reason why we continue under its dominion. Not so brethren! Men continue in sin, not because the grace of God is insufficient, but because they do not put on the whole armour of God, and contend vigorously and unceasingly, with watchfulness, faith and prayer. The promises of the Gospel extend to every sin—to every delinquency—to the whole heart, with all its affections and desires. Our blessed Saviour died and rose again, and intercedes for us, that we may obey the whole law

—letter and spirit. Then, let us not deny the efficacy of His atonement and intercession, but let every mouth be stopped, and the whole world become guilty before God, and let us commence seriously and in earnest, the work of repentance and reformation. To instance a few things—

1st. Are we training up our children, so as to carry out the great end of their creation? Our children are members of the Church. Do we realize this, and are they taught to conduct themselves as such? That all that is wrong in us, is sinful in them? That whatever we ought to do, they should do also?—Do we impress upon them that the law of God is to be the rule of their life, from childhood to old age? Do we talk about it when we rise up, and when we lie down—in the house, and by the way side? Do we enforce it by the considerations of death, judgment and eternity—the immortality of the soul, the glories of Heaven and the love of Christ? Do we strive to keep them under the full influence of these great and glorious motives? Do we explain to them the necessity of regeneration, and the plan of salvation by faith, and teach them to look for an immediate answer to believing prayer? Do they learn from our example that all we have belongs to the Lord, and that we use it in His fear, and under His immediate eye? Do they accompany us in our visits to the afflicted—the sick, the fatherless and the widow, and learn from us that our Saviour considers all religion without these fruits as hypocricy? If we did brethren, they would be converted in childhood and youth, and like their Divine Master increase, not only in stature, but in wisdom and in favor with God and man. Let not unbelief here make difficulties! This view is founded upon the sure promises of God, and relying upon these promises we baptize them in infancy, and receive them into the church. Do they disgrace that Church by the exhibitions of unconverted hearts? Let us not rest in the hope that the Lord will convert them in His own good time. Now is His time, and now His day of Salvation, to us, and to our children. The example of Eli and David is before us, and the unhappy end of Hophni and Phineas, of Ammon and Tamar, of Absalom and Adonijah. Let all parents learn wisdom from their example, and take warning from their end.

We entreat you also brethren, while diligently providing for the instruction of your own children, to spare neither time, expense, nor labor in making provision for the education of the thousands, who are to be our future statesmen, who are growing up, without the essential qualifications furnished by moral and

intellectual training, and of the members of the Church, who are or may be trained up in any other way, than the "fear, nurture, and admonition of the Lord." Get Sunday Schools, and Common Schools in operation—cost what it may. The blessing of Heaven shall attend your efforts—intellectual illumination, and moral power shall exert their directing and purifying influences—our civil and religious institutions will be preserved—generations unborn, will thank you for it, and in the day of Eternity the Saviour will testify, "well done."

But while we urge the importance of the proper training of your children, we would not have you neglectful of another, and very important branch of your families. What shall we say brethren about your servants, whom He that brings good out of evil, has permitted to be brought from their native wilds, that they may be introduced into the glorious liberty of the sons of God? Do we recognize, and are we accomplishing the great work, the great Head of the Church has honored us with? Does the master feel that he is a man placed in authority, for the mutual happiness of himself and his servants? Does he impose the same law upon himself, by which he exacts obedience from them? Does he obey its letter and spirit, with the same zeal and fidelity which he exacts of them? Does he teach them the history of the Saviour—of His love and salvation? If he does not, we fear the condemnation of dishonesty and injustice will be pronounced upon him, out of his own mouth, and that he will appear at the bar of God, a recreant to the noblest and best of causes.

The relation of master and servant, like every other social relation, is a sin to those who abuse it, and to all such, will undoubtedly prove a curse: but to the conscientious master, and faithful servant, it will prove, in the Providence of God, a blessing to themselves, and to society.

It is with great pleasure we inform you, that God is opening a wide door for missionary operations among the slaves, not only within the bounds of our own, but of sister Conferences—that masters are beginning to feel the importance of bringing them within the reach, and under the hallowing influences of the Gospel—and above all, as the happiest omen, that many, even of those who do not profess the saving influence of piety, and who do not give their own time to attend the ministrations of religion, are willing to call their servants from their labor at any time, that the convenience of the Missionary, may permit him to appoint. What a lesson for Christians, when men of the world

act thus, not from policy, but for conscience sake. We appeal to you brethren, by your own hope of Heaven—by the love of the Saviour, and the honor of his religion, that you take the lead in this work—that you cheer and encourage the Missionary in his work; and in the absence of the Missionary, urge it upon the Circuit Preacher, and keep him always in remembrance of it, and if any of our body manifest reluctance or indifference to a work which takes so strong a hold upon the sympathies of every true disciple of Christ, report them to us as utterly unworthy of a place among us. This is a work which requires very great prudence, wisdom, patience, and piety. The labors of the Missionary must be comparatively ineffectual, unless he is faithfully seconded by the efforts of the Christian Master. Even we who have been trained from childhood in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, require precept upon precept, to enable us to sustain a consistent christian character. The work is surrounded with difficulties, and its execution is not unattended with danger, but the greatest danger lies in neglecting it. Let every thing be done under your eye. The master lies under no suspicion, and the master alone can instruct the young convert from day to day, and watch him with unceasing vigilance, lest by falling into temptation, he disgrace the sacred cause.

Brethren our whole hearts are in this work—we believe the prosperity of our Church depends upon it. Religion very readily ascends from the lower to the highest ranks of society, but moves very slowly in the contrary direction. There is in every Church an increasing tendency to preach the Gospel to the rich. It grows upon us insensibly, and insidiously, under the disguise of social virtues, and before we are aware, deprives us of the spirit of our Master, and infuses the spirit of the world into our character and ministrations. Our want of success we fear, depends very much upon this cause. We entreat you therefore to be on your guard, and to oppose this tendency with a sleepless vigilance. The propagation of religion is like the process of heating water. Apply the fire below, and the whole speedily boils. Apply the heat from above, and the caloric escapes with the ascending vapor.

We have connected the religious instruction of servants and children, because they are closely identified. It is impossible to carry on the one successfully without the other. This position needs no proof. It is impossible that he who does not attend to the one, should care much for the other, and God abhors a heartless sacrifice. Nor would he bless the most laborious training of

our own offspring, if accompanied by a heartless indifference to the claims of suffering humanity around us. To strengthen then, this view, permit us to remind you, that our children must associate very much with our servants. It is impossible to prevent it—nor would it be proper to prevent it entirely if we could; for much of the kind treatment of the slave in after life, depends upon the hold he takes upon the sympathies of the master, when young. Then divest that association of danger, by instilling religious principle into the mind of the slave.

Intimately connected with this subject is the observance of the Sabbath—the day of sacred rest—inestimable, as an opportunity for the cultivation of the social and domestic virtues, but of infinite value as the day of preparation for Eternity. Our benevolent Creator has recommended its claims by His own example, and has kindly enforced them by enabling all the faculties both of mind and body, to do more work in six days, than in seven.

We are sorry to say that a rumor of gross violations of this sacred day have reached us from many places. Is it possible that Christians use it as a day of business, of convenience—that they purposely travel on that day, to save time—that they think and converse about worldly business? We fear so brethren. We fear that a *few*, we hope a *very few*, make it a convenience to go to Church—to make arrangements about worldly affairs. Brethren, we tremble while we write. The Lawyer starts to his Court, the Planter to market, the Merchant to our commercial Emporiums, the citizen tempts the poor slave to violate the day, by trafficking for his little commodities—all on the public highway, in view of the whole world. We beseech you, unite all hearts, influences and prayers, to arrest the evil. Lift up your voice like a trumpet. Publicly and privately, with reason, remonstrance and entreaty, stand up for the day upon which all our religious institutions rest. Remember the day, from the commencement of the week to its close. Prepare for it that all may rest, and that the sound of the axe or hammer may not be heard in all your borders. Devote it honestly to its great object, and make it a day of interesting and faithful religious instruction, "then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord, and he will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth," for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Bear with us, brethren, while we advert to another important subject, the contracting of debts. The universal bankruptcy of the nation exemplifies the wisdom of the law "owe no man any

thing," and the wide-spread distress, and fearful embarrassment of our people proclaim the fearful punishment which attends its violation.

These debts too, are mainly contracted for the purpose of laying up treasure on earth, so clearly and positively forbidden by the Bible, and Discipline of the Church. Why do we retain that rule, if the principle is false? But it is not false. One of the greatest wants of the church at this time is, a body of men who are not afraid nor ashamed to be poor, and can show by their example, how truly respectable, and really rich in all that makes life comfortable, a family may live without much of this world's goods. In contending against open and undisguised immorality, we have almost forgotten that the Bible makes the love of money the root of all evil. It is idolatry, and the object of its worship, is the most contemptible of the heathen Gods. We are sorry to say, that if the church has not been more ardent, she has certainly been more successful in paying her devotions at this shrine. We beseech you to look at the subject—a moment's glance will point out the innumerable evils that flow from this source—how it corrupts the whole man, in all his thoughts, feelings, habits, pursuits and associations. The nation has been perfectly intoxicated upon this subject. We hope the church will set the example of returning soberness—that its members will make every reasonable sacrifice to pay their debts, and for the future avoid debt as an enemy to themselves, the church and the country. We recommend indulgence to those who are free from embarrassment, for patriotism and charity both unite at this juncture, in demanding great sacrifices from those creditors who are in prosperous circumstances.

We also recommend, most earnestly to your attention, our rule upon dress. There is an intimate connexion between the inner and outer man, splendid attire and costly equipage as certainly intoxicate the spiritual, as alcohol does the physical man. These are certainly forbidden by the Bible and the Discipline; and we hope our brethren will make a united effort to put away all superfluous ornaments from among us, and to reduce the expence of their attire, and their style of living, to the economy and simplicity that become the disciples of our Saviour.

It would be improper to pass by the rule which forbids uncharitable and unprofitable conversation. "Say nothing behind a man's back, that you would not be willing to say to his face," was the rule of the Heathen. "Speak evil of no man" is the law of christianity. We hope our members will remember in

the violent political contests which agitate this country, that magistrates are particularly specified in this rule, and while they prudently discuss the policy of our rulers, will as much as possible, bear in mind the great law, both of the old and new Testament. Thou shalt not revile the Gods nor speak evil of the ruler of thy people. The day of eternity alone, will reveal how many of our present political evils, have arisen out of the habit of abusing the leaders, whether official or unofficial, of our great political parties. The fact of a man's holding a high office, so far from making his character public, is an additional reason, why his character and motives should be treated with the utmost respect. Hence, we entreat you to discourage, as much as possible, those papers and periodicals, which indulge in personal invective.

Of the members of our own body, we would say, when we come among you as ministers of the Gospel of peace, we hope you will remember that we are but men—many of us young and inexperienced—some of us nearly worn out in the service of our master—many of us strangers, far from home, and the friends of early life. From these various motives we are entitled to your warmest sympathies. You will sustain us—you will counsel us—you will admonish before you censure us—you will hear before you condemn us. The discipline of the church lies near our heart. Your active and hearty co-operation is necessary to its successful execution.

We are sorry to inform you that the scanty claims of our preachers, this year, have been very imperfectly met. We wish that as a body, we had more of the spirit of our master and his apostles—that we were more devoted and self-denying; and it may be, that the head of the church, has withholden our support, because we were not worthy of it. But brethren is it not also possible, that in many instances, our services would have been more available, if our families had been better provided for? The early Methodist Preachers underwent greater privations than we do, but it was under different circumstances. They were among enemies, we among friends, who profess to love the Saviour, his people and his cause; and we do assure you it is extremely difficult to minister with faith to those brethren, who refuse to impart to us a small share of those necessaries which they enjoy in the greatest abundance. We cannot help thinking it may be wrong; but thoughts of wife and children

will steal over the mind, and evil surmises are with great difficulty suppressed, and they frequently hinder our prayers, and restrain our efforts to promote your spiritual welfare. There is one point of our economy, that is not rightly understood by many of our members. We are required to go, wherever we are sent; murmuring or reluctance on our part, is met with the most stern rebuke. We go confiding in the christian sympathies of our brethren; and have we not a right to expect a corresponding confidence on their part!—to expect that at the commencement of the year, they will make efficient arrangements to meet our own wants, and the wants of our families. Delicacy forbids us to say more, and we hope the same delicacy will induce you to act promptly, although we may not be in all respects. such as you would have us. It entirely subverts our economy, for our members to say, we will not support our minister, if he does not deserve it. If he fail to receive his support, he comes back to this body, and after having employed him and compelled him to go, under the most mortifying and degrading penalties, we cannot cast him off penniless, and he must receive his share out of the fund allotted to the worn out preachers, and the widows and orphans of those who laid the foundations of Methodism in this country, when it was yet a wilderness.

Why brethren, are Class-meetings so imperfectly kept up, and so badly attended? Why are prayer-meetings so much neglected? Without social prayer, private prayer is seldom attended to. Let us gird up ourselves anew to the work of the Lord. These things may all be done. Every thing that a christian ought to do, may be done. Let every man resolve to do his duty, independently and alone. Then let him call upon the Lord for help, and upon his brethren for their co-operation, and the work of the Lord must prosper abundantly. And may the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds, through Christ Jesus.

J. C. FINLEY, *Ch'r.*